

LITERATURE.

"Una Cora nel Nuovo Mondo" is the title of two handsome volumes of American travel published by Fratelli Treves at Milan. The author, a Sicilian gentleman—Signor Francesco Varvaro—visited the United States in the summer of 1876, landing at New York, proceeding to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Richmond; west from Washington to Cincinnati by Harper's Ferry, Steubenville and White Sulphur Springs; visited Louisville and the Mammoth Cave; crossed the continent, via St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver and Salt Lake City, having an interview with Brigham Young; visited the mines of Nevada, the Mariposa grove, the Yosemite Valley, the Geysers and the Chinese quarter of San Francisco, and returned to the Atlantic by way of Omaha, Chicago, Niagara, Montreal and Quebec, being flying visits to Saratoga, Newport and Boston, and sailed from New York in September, after less than three months' sojourn in the Western World. In his preface, dated Palermo, April 13, 1878, Signor Varvaro enumerates many works of travel which he has consulted, authorities, including those of Dickens, Trollope, Dixon, Baron Humboldt and Simoudin, and expresses solicitude that his work should be judged favorably by American readers on account of his frankness in advertising to certain details of the American character, which, as he says, lie on the surface, while underneath are a host of sterling qualities. Signor Varvaro may be assured that Americans can preserve their equanimity under his good humored criticisms, which are only the foil of a genuine appreciation of the national merits. In his chapters upon New York the author pays his respects to American journalism at considerable length, giving an amusing account of our system of "interviewing," and making the astonishing statement that the candidate for office in a previous election contended for President, have to undergo the ordeal of a newspaper biography, beginning with his ancestors and coming down to an account of his personal habits. Several chapters are devoted to the Exposition, in which Signor Varvaro found much to criticize, but more to admire. His account of the Pacific coast and of the river cities of St. Louis and Chicago is fresh and entertaining, and the whole work can be commended as very pleasant reading.

A FRIEND.

"A Friend," translated by Mrs. Helen Stanley, from the French "L'Ami," and published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, of Philadelphia, is the latest story in the characteristic style of the lady, under the pen-name "Henry Gréville." It has contributed several pleasant works of fiction to recent literature. The merit of the story is in its absolute simplicity. Nothing could be more unaffected and unassuming. Camille, a young music teacher of Paris, is over head and ears in love with Paul Bréard, a married man, whom she had known before his marriage, in her native town, in the provinces. Like Viola, she never told her love.

But let conscience, like a worm in the bud, feed on her love, and she will be a different creature. Paul, fortunately for his marital happiness, does not reciprocate her affection, being wholly devoted to his wife and child. M. Bréard, a man of the world, admires Camille and makes her a proposal of marriage, which she rejects in consequence of her love for Paul. At last a favorable opportunity occurs for the confession of this secret devotion to the man she loves, and finding the passion hopeless she concludes to accept M. Bréard. Her marriage ends the tale. The author relies for her effect wholly upon the legitimate method of skill in delineating character. There is no sensationalism, no straining for effect. The quiet, steady, and unobtrusive, and this is all the more noticeable and attractive in a French author of fiction. Where privacy is so common and powerful a means of attraction, interest the quiet simplicity that characterizes "A Friend" deserves especial commendation.

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

Mrs. Mary Noel Sherwood has translated Emile Zola's celebrated novel "Une Page d'Amour," under the title "Hédoine, a Love Episode." The book has made a great sensation in Paris. T. B. Peterson & Brothers will publish it in the course of a fortnight.

Albert Rhodes, United States Consul at Rome, will have an article on "Successful Mediocrity," in the November-December number of the *International Review*.

The October *Portfolio*, received through J. W. Bouton, has an amusing article on "The Sketch of Tadpole's life," accompanied by a drawing of the Englishman by naturalization, though born in the Netherlands. He has been the fortunate discoverer of a new vein of art, which represents ancient Greece and Rome as they really were. "The Silent Contestant" is a good example of his simpler style. Lookhart's "Greyfriars, Edinburgh," and Keanbach's "Deluge" complete the full page etchings.

The most important articles in the November number of the *North American Review* will be "Systems of Offense and Defense in Naval Warfare," by Admiral Robert Pacha, giving the experiences and conclusions of the writer in relation to the recent European war; "The Congress of Berlin and its Consequences," by a vigorous anonymous writer; "Japan and the Western Powers," by Matsuyama Makoto, a paper that has received the endorsement of prominent men in the Japanese government; and in almost official in character, "The Emperor Meiji and his Character," by Ernest Meiji. Harriet Seymour will lead the number with an article entitled "The Government of the United States," in which he takes a candid view of our institutions in opposition to the doubtful one presented by Parkman. He argues, further, that the people can be trusted.

Mr. Charles Dickens will write the life of the late famous comedian, Charles J. Mathews, which Mathews and Co. will publish.

Cardinal Antonelli's library of 20,000 volumes will shortly be sold at auction in Rome.

A dictionary of the anonymous literature of Great Britain, by Samuel Hackett and John Laing, is in Paterson's Edinburgh press.

At present we have an English translation of Grimm's *German Mythology*, a book full of learning and interest.

The works of the French mathematician and astronomer Laplace are to be issued complete by the Academy of Sciences of Paris. It will include not only the *Mécanique Céleste*, but a great number of memoirs which Laplace published in periodicals and which have never yet been collected.

The *Speculator* welcomes as "a new writer endowed with the precious gift of rare and genuine humor" the anonymous author of "Six to One; a Nauvooer Idyl," printed in New York by G. P. Putnam's Sons.

A new book about Ireland and its institutions, by C. A. B. Conyngham, has appeared in London, and is full of good things.

Professor Rawlinson's "Origins of Nations" brings together in a popular and interesting form a great amount of information about early civilization.

Professor Stanley Jervais' paper on the "Anno Domini of the English People," in the October *Contemporary Review*, is well worth reading.

We have received the fifth volume of an important legal work now in course of publication by A. L. Sanborn & Co., of San Francisco. It will contain, when completed, all the decisions of the State courts of last resort in cases of great value and authority. It will be a great saving of expense to lawyers and publicists, who have heretofore been able to obtain these decisions only by purchasing the voluminous State reports, which are encumbered with a great mass of decisions of no value or interest outside of the particular States whose laws they expound.

The extraordinary fact is stated that the new London sporting paper, *The Referee*, has already reached a weekly circulation of 50,000, though but one year old.

The *Watchdog Review* has as one of its chief contributors the lady writer calling herself Ouida, who has not appeared in journalism before.

The authorities of the French Republic have intervened the sale of an impartial estimate entitled the *light*, containing contributions by Paul de Cassagnac and other Bonapartists.

The life and letters of the French novelist Balzac have been undertaken by Evelyn D. Jerrard, and will shortly appear.

A member of Parliament named H. Huxley Vivian has written "Notes of a Tour in America," from August to November 17, 1877, which will probably be as renowned as the observations of other three months' travelers upon our country.

A much needed grammar of the old French language, by Dr. F. Neumann, of Halleberg, will soon appear.

The London *Academy* pronounces Mr. Henry

JAMES' NOVEL, "THE EUROPEAN," AN EXTREMELY CLEAR BOOK AND READABLE FROM FIRST TO LAST.

A volume of the "Literary Studies" of the late Walter Bagehot will shortly appear.

Count Odoevsky's "Studies on the Primitive Inhabitants of Russia" has been translated into French and published at Paris.

A new "Life of Garibaldi," by M. Bordoue, has just appeared in French.

A learned and elaborate "History of Hannibal," by the French scholar Hennebert, has appeared at Paris.

VISITING VESUVIUS.

ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE LAVA FLOW FROM THE VOLCANO.

[Naples Letter to the Pall Mall Gazette.]

I started with a friend to make the ascent. It rained until we reached the observatory, and then, fortunately, the day became delightful. It is a weary climb up, though, through the loose ashes; and one is tempted to halt and admire the view pretty often before reaching the top. When we had reached it we could see nothing for the smoke and mist that filled the big crater; while far beneath us we could hear the lava seething and frequent explosions from the new cone. We were advised at starting not to descend into the crater; but our guide assured us we could quite safely do so, so down we scrambled on to the lava. The floor of the crater has risen in the weeks from the constant flow of lava, and is now within about twenty feet of a gap in the side of the crater wall, looking toward the old left-hand cone, which is still rising. As we stood on the comparatively low blocks of lava the red-hot stream was slowly flowing out from cracks around us, moving on in a snake-like, fascinating way, and breaking out in fresh places as soon as the flow stopped elsewhere. Every crack showed the lava red-hot foot or so beneath us, but the guides kept about on the level of the lava, and as we were on the level of the lava, the lava was not so hot as it looked. At the upper edge of the crater—that is, just underneath the highest point of the old cone—is the new cone, which has risen in the week or so, and is a baby cone about fifty feet in height and perhaps one hundred and ninety yards in circumference at the base, but a very noisy and fiery little fellow. The lava flow is now frequently rising above its summit, and hurrying into the air to a height of one hundred feet or so, and the lava is now and then falling down on its side, making them rise higher every day. The wind fortunately blew the smoke away from us, or otherwise we should have been almost suffocated with the smoke. We stood about thirty yards from the base of the cone; and we were able to enjoy the wonderful sight, which, as a man who followed us down said, one could not see from the top of the mountain. The lava flow was now and then falling down on its side, making them rise higher every day. The wind fortunately blew the smoke away from us, or otherwise we should have been almost suffocated with the smoke. We stood about thirty yards from the base of the cone; and we were able to enjoy the wonderful sight, which, as a man who followed us down said, one could not see from the top of the mountain.

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On the 21st inst. a shepherd named John Maginley was killed by a Chinaman named Lang, on Jack Brim's ranch, Freshwater, under the following circumstances:—Maginley entered the cabin for some soap, when the Chinaman forbade him taking it. The foreman, Henry Smith, gave him the soap. The next day, after dinner, deceased picked up some scraps from the table for the purpose of feeding his dog, and when he returned with the plate to the kitchen he found him to be dead. Deceased did not wish to injure the Chinaman, as he might lose his situation. On the following day Maginley entered the house for a drink of water, when the Chinaman rushed upon him with a hatchet and struck him in the forehead, making a gash about an inch in length. Deceased called out for help, saying the Chinaman was trying to kill him. The hatchet was thrown from the Chinaman's hand, and he fled. Deceased called out for help, saying the Chinaman was trying to kill him. The hatchet was thrown from the Chinaman's hand, and he fled.

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